

Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

Danika Paige Hotham

Reference no: 595

Submitter Type: Individual

Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

To protect our planet and reduce the consumerist nature of society and the masses of unnecessary waste this creates

Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

All thicknesses should be included in this ban to close loopholes and avoid false solutions that don't make a real difference. The plastic packaging our supermarket food comes packaged in should also be included

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Not sure

Notes

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

Position

No

Notes

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Because we need to be taking the protection of our planet and oceans seriously and making this a complete ban, maybe subsidies could be explored for small business who may struggle with the cost of alternatives

Clause

6. If smaller retailers are exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags and they are defined by their number of full-time equivalent employees, what should that number be?

Notes

I do not think they should be exempt

Clause

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

Position

Not sure

Notes

I do understand this is a difficult transition for many but I think it should progress as quickly as possible

Clause

8. Do you agree that the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs expected from implementing the phase out? Why / why not? Please consider both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits (those that can be measured by money as well as those that can't).

Position

Yes

Notes

The benefits definitely exceed the costs.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

Many cloth bags only cost \$1, they are reusable, will last years and are sturdier and fit more in them than single use plastic bags

Clause

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

Position

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

Also there are many creative solutions such as Kete, sewing shut the bottom of old singlets, using your backpack, boxes as Pak'n'save provides and just putting your stuff in the boot of your car with no bags and unloading it

Clause

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

Notes

All supermarkets providing boxes as Pak'n'save does, public Kete making workshops etc. but i think after a short time reusable bags are easy to remember, also ones that can fold down to go into your handbag are really handy too

Clause

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

Notes

Not sure, I think it should all be monitored as closely as possible though as these figures are important

Clause

13. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

Notes

We really need to make this a real solution with a complete ban and no easy loop holes such as thicker plastic bags. I also think this ban needs to be the first step in phasing out all plastic packaging! I think New Zealand could lead a massive change and strive to be the first plastic free nation. I also think New Zealand needs to implement composting facilities and mandatory kerbside compost collection ASAP